

Record

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MC BSUers find ministry on ski slopes

By Mary Ellen Powell
Special to the Baptist Record

There's something about telling people that you're going on a mission trip to Vail, Colo. during ski season that makes them a little doubtful, but that is exactly what a group from the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Mississippi College (MC) did over their Spring Break.

Since the partnership between Baptists in Miss. and Colo. began in 1996, many Mississippians have traveled west to give their time and energy to help churches in Colorado.

traditional methods.

Melinda Carlson, minister of music, resort ministries, and fine arts at Trinity Church, Vail, explained that the work done would be "servant ministry" that would lead others to wonder who you are and for whom you stand.

"We realize that people here probably will not come into our church, so we take the Gospel to them by showing Jesus through simple acts of kindness.

"Anything we can do to show love in Christ's name may be the seed sown that will lead them to see that only Jesus can provide meaning in their lives," Carlson said.

Some of the acts of kindness included handing out cookies, providing free cookouts to resort employees, and giving water and hot chocolate to spectators at the World Cup Downhill Races.

Employees of Vail Associates asked, "Why are you doing this?" Students were given the opportunity to share what they were doing and why.

One of the BSU singing groups, "Priority," walked throughout the village singing and inviting onlookers to coffee houses and dinners.

The group even cleaned public restrooms. Why?

As Melinda Carlson explained, "Who else would clean a toilet for someone just as a service to them other than a Christian?"

Erin Barkley, a freshman from Meridian, said, "I thought



PAUSE THAT REFRESHES — Mississippi College BSU members hand out refreshments to people attending the World Cup Downhill Races at Vail, Colo., during a spring break mission trip in conjunction with the Mississippi/Colorado Baptist Partnership Project. (Photos by Mary Ellen Powell)

it so unusual in a place where so many people go to 'have fun' that no one smiled."

Sometimes the group ministered through freely-given smiles shared with shuttle drivers, fellow bus passengers, ski lift operators, store clerks, and ski instructors — many of whom were pleasantly shocked to see a friendly face and hear a kind word.

Carrie Bevell, a senior from Mount Olive said, "The work was very practical, like a Good Samaritan-type of ministry. If you saw a need, you worked to meet that specific need."

As with most mission trips, the benefits of the trip were felt not only on the field, but back home as well.

The trip caused many students to consider how ministering through simple acts of kindness could take place on the MC campus.

Students were also given the opportunity to consider how God could lead them into further mission work.

Jonathan Anglin, a senior from Abilene, Texas, said, "I have always wondered if missions was the direction I needed to take in my life."

"Through the week in Vail, I saw how much our world is hurting and felt that it could be possible that God wants me to move in the direction of missions."

Powell's husband Jeff is MC BSU director.



SKI BREAK — Members of the Mississippi College BSU singing group, "Priority," serenade skiers along the slopes of Vail, Colo. during a break on their recent spring break mission trip.

The MC group was one of the first-ever mission groups from the South to work in Vail.

Work in a non-traditional location calls for some non-

Baptist Book Stores best seller list

HARDBACK

1. *Purpose Driven Church*, Rick Warren (Zondervan)
2. *David*, Charles Swindoll (Word)
3. *The Weigh Down Diet*, Gwen Shamblin (Doubleday)
4. *In the Grip of Grace*, Max Lucado (Word)
5. *Experiencing God*, Blackaby & King (Broadman & Holman)
6. *Making Love Last Forever*, Gary Smalley (Word)
7. *Streams in the Desert*, updated version, L.B. Cowman (Zondervan)
8. *Believe in Miracles But Trust in Jesus*, Adrian Rogers (Crossway)
9. *The Joyful Journey*, various authors (Zondervan)
10. *Jesus, Who Is He?*, Tim LaHaye (Questar)

PAPERBACK

1. *The Beginning of the End*, John Hagee (Nelson)
2. *15 Minutes Alone With God*, Emilie Barnes (Harvest House)
3. *Right From Wrong*, Josh McDowell (Word)
4. *Day of Deception*, John Hagee (Nelson)
5. *The Five Love Languages*, Gary Chapman (Moody)
6. *Woman, Thou Art Loosed*, T.D. Jakes (Destiny Image)
7. *What Happens When Women Pray*, E. Christenson (Chariot/Victor)
8. *And the Angels Were Silent*, Max Lucado (Questar)
9. *The Signature of God*, Grant Jeffrey (Frontier Research)
10. *15 Minutes of Peace with God*, Emilie Barnes (Harvest House)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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Looking back

10 years ago

First Church, Leland, celebrates its centennial as a church body, with Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, as keynote speaker. Lunch follows the services with preaching by former pastors. William L. Jaggar is pastor.

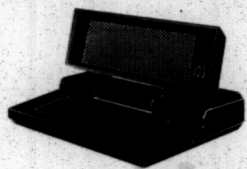
20 years ago

Oakland Church, Corinth, observes "Golden Age Day," honoring their senior citizens. Clarence Palmer reads Scripture and Clark Rakestraw preaches. These two men represent 100 years of gospel ministry. Pastor Tommy Vinson came to Christ under Rakestraw's ministry.

50 years ago

Jean Yates of Houston, Texas, daughter of Kyle Yates and granddaughter of the late J. M. Sharp who taught at Mississippi College for numerous years, is elected president of the student government council at Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Don't forget the sacrifices

The urgency of reaching the world for Christ is before us each day. The danger inherent in doing so was again brought home last week with the death of Wendell "Boots" Blackwell.

Blackwell, a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil, died April 20 from injuries suffered in a two-car accident along a lonely stretch of Brazilian roadway as he was returning late at night from a preaching engagement. (See article on page four of this issue.)

His passing may not have been as dramatic as missionaries who have been killed at the hands of tyrants or highway robbers. He certainly could have died in an auto accident in this country.

However, the fact cannot be diminished that he died a long way from home while following our Savior's Great Commission, completely surrendered to the Lord's direction for his life.

That makes his death important to each of us who have chosen to be Christian and Southern Baptist.

We need to be in prayer for Blackwell's family. He is survived by his wife Sherry and five teenaged children. It's not going to be an easy adjustment for them.

Americans have a disturbing tendency to express our heartfelt sympathy immediately after a death and then move on with our own lives. Don't forget the Blackwell family in a couple of months when some other breaking news story captures everyone else's attention.

Continue to pray for them. Drop them a note of support at the address in the article on page four of this issue.

Remember that they too have made an ultimate sacrifice in following God's will; they lost their husband and father.

Now as much as ever — maybe more than ever — we need to support people like Boots Blackwell and his family with our prayers, as they willingly follow God where he leads them around the world.

They go into dangerous places and do dangerous jobs. Some missionaries in certain parts of the world cannot even be listed on prayer sheets by name or location, so fraught with hazard is the ministry assignment they have accepted.

Even in our own midst, missionaries answer God's call to minister in places that are every bit as dangerous as the most anarchic third-world country.

As Joe McKeever's editorial cartoon this week so pointedly states, we must provide spiritual "cover" for all these men and women who put Christ ahead of self in



sacrificial ways that most of us can only imagine.

As you go about your busy schedule this week, take a little time to thank God for each one of them, and take as much time as necessary to pray for the souls uncounted that they yearn to reach for Christ.

It's the simplest — and most important — thing we can do for them.

Norman Vincent Peale, in his book "This Incredible Century," relates the following tale.

At age 65, he's staying in a Chicago hotel operated by two brothers, Frank and Gus Bering. Peale noticed Frank Bering making rounds in the large dining hall seeing that everything was in order. Peale said admiringly, "Frank, how old are you, anyway? You went to school with my mother, you must be 87."

Frank punched 65-year-old Peale in the chest with his finger and said, "Son, let me tell you something which will be of value when you grow up! Live your life and forget your age."

Peale took that advice. At age 33 he accepted the pas-

A PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE:



Living life the right way

By Carl M. White, Associate Editor

torate at the Collegiate Church in New York City. For 52 years he pastored that church. At 85, he retired from the active pastorate but continued traveling and speaking to churches, businesses, and civic organizations around the world until his death a few years ago in his 90s.

"Live your life and forget

your age." That is a challenging piece of advice to us all. Of course, sometimes age seems to overtake life but it need never overtake the spirit.

While a youth director in college, I invited a retired doctor to speak to my young people about the physical effects of hunger, as part of an emphasis

we were doing on world hunger. He did so much more.

Not only did he detail what hunger does to the physical body, he also detailed the effects of hunger on the human soul.

I was amazed at how this retired physician held those teenagers in rapt attention.

He proclaimed, "My hair may be going and my body frail, but my mind is as sharp as a sword. I may be slowed, but I am not stopped."

Wrap this motto around your heart and make it part of the fabric of your being. "Live your life, not your age," or, as the Psalmist sang, "They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green." (Ps. 92:14 NASB)

The problem with Top 10 lists

By David Michel
MBCB Stewardship Director

For observance of Cooperative Program (CP) Day on April 20, a list of the top 100 CP churches in Miss. was published in "The Baptist Record" on April 17.

Whenever such a list is published, everyone wants to be included, and that's not bad.

Every church should desire and strive to do the best they can for the cause of Christ.

Twice each year, a list of what every church has given to all mission causes is published.

For CP Day, an effort is made to recognize those churches which are leaders and pace-setters in giving.

How are these top 100 CP chosen? A method as fair as possible was employed.

First, all the churches were categorized according to their total receipts.

Ten categories were established, ranging from churches with offerings of

\$25,000 and below to churches with offerings of \$1,000,000 or more.

Approximately 200 churches were included in each category. The ten largest contributors to CP were listed from each category.

In this way, churches of similar giving ability are compared, and typically those who have made the largest sacrifice are singled out for recognition.

Sometimes this method doesn't work. For instance, through computer error two churches were not listed last week which should have been.

Our apologies go to First Church, Poplarville, which gave \$58,185 through CP, and New Hebron Church, Lawrence Association, which gave \$57,341.

They were fourth and fifth, respectively, in the \$250,000-499,000 category.

If your church was not listed and you believe it should have been, please call the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) CP Department at (800) 748-1651.

Some churches cannot be categorized

because of poor data submitted on the Annual Church Profile (ACP).

Each year churches voluntarily submit membership and ministry reports through their associations on the ACP.

These reports are used to categorize the various churches.

Many churches are not careful about the accuracy of the data recorded and hence they may lose an opportunity for recognition or for church growth analysis.

The ACP form can be tedious, but the statistical history can be a valuable tool for future ministry planning.

The most important factor in CP promotion is that we continue to encourage one another toward greater ministry.

Statistics are never perfect, but if they involve us in deeper conversation about, and prayer for, the Kingdom of Christ, then they have served a noble purpose.

"Let's not grow weary in well doing...." as the Apostle Paul would say, "for in due time we shall reap a wonderful harvest if we do not give up" (Gal. 6:9).

Preaching/Worship Conference set for May 12-13

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

The 1997 Mississippi Conference on Preaching and Worship will be held May 12-13 at First Church, Greenwood, according to Julius Thompson, director of the sponsoring Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"For the pastor who has been at the job of preaching and ministering all year, it will be a refreshing experience."

"Any pastor or staff person can attend; we move it around the state year-by-year to make it more convenient to attend," Thompson said.

Last year, the preaching and worship conference was held in Tupelo. Focus will be given this year to different styles of worship, Thompson said.



Bailey

are using different worship styles to reach different groups today. There is the more formal style of worship, the traditional style, the contemporary style, and the blended style, he said.

Waylon Bailey, pastor of First Church, Covington, La., has been invited to address the different styles of worship, Thompson indicated.

"Bailey has three different kind of worship services every Sunday," Thompson said.

"The Tuesday morning conference time will be used to model a blended type of worship experience," he said.

In addition, Thompson announced two other new features.

"We are including a track for the small church pastor and for the minister of music."

"There are many pastors in our state who have not had the opportunity for formal homiletic classes. This will



Wright

help," Thompson said.

Edger Lee Wright, pastor of Morgantown Church, Natchez, will lead three separate workshops for the small church pastor.

"Preaching to the same small crowd," on Monday evening;

"Worship ideas for the smaller church," on Tuesday morning;

"Pastoral survival/effectiveness in the smaller church," on Tuesday afternoon.

Wright pastored a small church for 25 years before going to Natchez.

The second new feature is for ministers of music, Thompson said.

Alan Harris, music minister at North Oxford Church, Oxford, will lead a workshop Monday evening called "Simple lessons in creative worship."

Harris will also lead praise and music for the conference sessions.



Harris

Other program personalities include:

◆ Al Fasol, professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary.

◆ Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

◆ Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson.

◆ Dot Pray, keyboard consultant in the MBCB Church Music Department.

There is no charge for the meeting.

For more information or to register, contact Thompson at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone (601) 968-3800 or outside of Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Fasol



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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Reccord details plans for new agency

ATLANTA (BP) — Robert Reccord, nominee for president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and officials of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leading the restructuring of the denomination joined in praising the new mission agency as a "more effective" delivery system for a new century.

Reccord, 45, senior pastor of the 5,000-member First Church of Norfolk, Va., is the unanimous choice of a search committee for president of the new agency. He will be nominated at the organizational meeting of the NAMB board of trustees following the June SBC meeting in Dallas.

Reccord and four SBC officials spoke to news media April 24 following the first day's meeting of potential NAMB trustees discussing actions required by the board when it officially organizes June 19.

The "incorporators" of NAMB, a 13-member committee to assist the creation of NAMB and serving as its presidential search committee as well, hosted the April 24-25 meeting in Atlanta.

Also speaking at the news conference were C.B. "Bill" Hogue, chairman of the "incorporators" and a retired California Southern Baptist Convention executive; Charles Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va., a spokesman for the Home Mission Board's trustees; and John Yarbrough, chairman of the Implementation Task Force (ITF) overseeing the restructuring and pastor of First Church, Perry, Ga.

Reccord emphasized NAMB's ministry assignment, "assisting local churches," which would mean the agency would be asking questions such as "What do you need in the field? How can we help you?" The new agency would work closely with state conventions and local associations, he said, but not with "prepackaged handouts."

Also, Reccord said he hoped NAMB would harness and utilize the effectiveness of media technology.

But Reccord and the SBC officials

acknowledged the creation of NAMB was not easy nor painless.

Using an illustration of a woman having a baby, Reccord said there is no "delicate way to birth an organization."

NAMB is a new agency created from the dissolution of the Home Mission Board (HMB), Radio and Television Commission (RTVC), and Brotherhood Commission. Although the three agencies had more than 500 employees, NAMB will start with 362.

A number of questions at the news conference centered on the reduction in the number of employees.

Yarbrough said NAMB would offer some positions to people outside the three agencies although about 300 of the positions would be offered to HMB, RTVC and Brotherhood employees.

Reccord, in response to a question, said there would be a higher percentage of women in NAMB management/professional positions than currently at the three agencies, although fewer in number, as there would be fewer total employees.

No further details were given as officials said some of the positions were still in the process of being filled.

Officials said Reccord, if elected at the June meeting, would be prepared to bring some recommendations to the trustees, including the five vice presidential slots. Reccord had been chairman of the ITF until last month when he stepped aside, telling his church he was under consideration for the NAMB post.

Yarbrough also said the ITF was in the process of mailing a letter to all 5,000-plus home missionaries assuring them they will be NAMB missionaries.

He said a study group working with the cooperative agreements between the state conventions and the HMB has generated 150 surveys from various officials and hopes to reveal some of its findings in a news release in May.

Funding for the current cooperative agreements will go through 1998, officials said.

Also in response to a question, Yarbrough said the RTVC and HMB will bring some cash reserves to NAMB when it is organized, while the current estimate is the Brotherhood will have a \$57,000 deficit.

However, the Brotherhood Commission's building in Memphis, Tenn., is for sale and that amount would be given to NAMB when sold.

In introducing Reccord to the media and responding to a question, Hogue said "no politics were involved" in the selection process.

Reccord told the media, regarding his nomination, "I'm as surprised as anybody here."

Baptist secretaries elect new officers



The Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association elected officers at its annual meeting April 7-8 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. The officers for 1997-98 are (from left) Danie Robbins, Mississippi College, Clinton, president; Dot Simmons, Gulf Coast Association, first vice-president; Sandi Komurke, First Church, Madison, second vice-president; and Vivian Taylor, Wayne Association, secretary-treasurer. (Photo by Betty Anne Bailey)

Ga. professor urges planning for aging

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

Part one of a two part series

"As many as 12 million Americans require long term health care to continue to live," Frank Whittington, Director of the Gerontology Center and professor of sociology at Georgia State University in Atlanta told a group of approximately 100 people at a caregiving conference sponsored by Parkway Church, Clinton.

Called Personal Care Decision-Making in Later life, the conference was for caregivers and care receivers, according to Gayle Garrett, Minister of Senior Adults at Parkway.

"As a society we are outliving our ability to be independent," he said.

According to the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Department of Aging and Adult Services, 16.6 percent, or about one in every six Mississippians, are age 60 or over.

In 1990, a person reaching the age of 60 had an average life expectancy of an additional 22 years (24 for women and 20 for men.)

"If you are not an active caregiver, before it is all over with you probably will be," Whittington said.

Born in Kansas, Whittington was raised in Jackson. He was a member of Calvary Church, where his parents, Frank and Alee Whittington, have been members since 1937. Whittington has degrees from Mississippi State and Duke University.

A Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, Whittington is a thinker and teacher of aging.

He has authored nine books and 40 articles on the subject of long-term care and the behavior of older people.

"Long term care does not mean just a nursing home," he said.

"There is no choice about stopping or intervening in the aging process, but there are lifestyle choices.

"Choices are complicated and can lead to confusion. What we need is more information, to understand the choices in order to set informed directions and goals," Whittington said.

Whittington said there are five key questions in the long term care process.

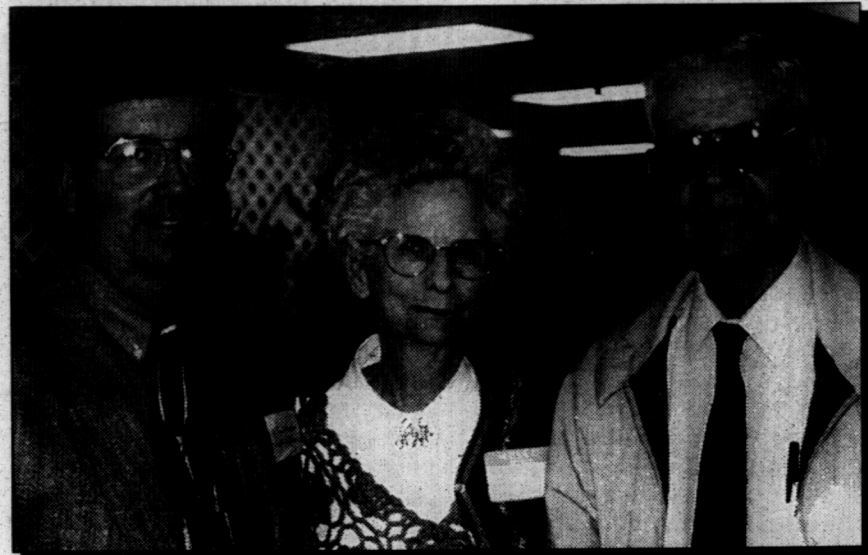
◆ First, where will care be provided?

◆ Second, who will provide the care?

◆ Third, who will pay for the care?

◆ Fourth, what type of care (services) are needed?

◆ Fifth, when do you



FAMILY REUNION — Conference leader Frank Whittington (left) of Atlanta, Ga. is joined by his parents, Alee (center) and Frank (right) Whittington of Jackson. The senior Whittingtons have been members of Calvary Church, Jackson, since 1937. (Photo by Carl M. White)

decide about care?

Whittington answered the fifth question with an emphatic, "Before the need arises" and gave three reasons why.

First, if plans aren't made, then someone will have to make decisions on the person's behalf. "If we don't make our wishes known," he said, "they cannot be carried out."

Second, planning relieves family members of the burden of making difficult decisions. "It is a blessing to your loved ones to make your wishes

known," he said.

Finally, "it is better to talk about these emotional things while we have all our faculties and are calm, then when someone is standing outside the door waiting for a decision," he said.

"Caregiving can be a positive and growing experience. It can bring people together in different and new ways," Whittington said.

Next week: Issues related to being a caregiver and a care receiver.

Lee presidency hailed as "new day" at La. College

PINEVILLE, La. (ABP) — The unanimous election of 47-year-old Rory Lee as president of Louisiana College was hailed as a "new day" by trustees of the school, divided in recent years by Baptist politics.

Lee, currently president at William Carey College in Hattiesburg, accepted a five-year contract as president of the Baptist school in Pineville, beginning June 2.

Lee told the "Baptist Message" newspaper he hopes the unity behind his election will transfer into other areas of the school's operation.

"People are showing a cooperative spirit, wanting to work together so that Louisiana College can continue its academic excellence and be the kind of Christian influence on its students that it should be," Lee said.

The school has experienced a turbulent transition with the approaching retirement of President Robert Lynn.

Last year, trustees rejected a prospective faculty member, raising cries of academic freedom from faculty, and four professors sued a prominent conservative in the state for defamation after he circulated letters charging them with heresy. The suit is currently in litigation.

Lee said he is confident he can work with Louisiana Baptists on both sides of the conflict.

"I believe one of the reasons that I was elected is because of my desire to work with all Louisiana Baptists.

"We as Louisiana Baptists are conservative by nature, and I believe I can work with all Louisiana Baptists to bring about a great future for Louisiana College," he said.

Questions to consider in planning for care

FOR THE CARE RECEIVER

- ◆ Have I informed others of my wishes regarding care decisions?
- ◆ Can my family and/or friends offer help in the decision-making process?
- ◆ Do I have family and/or friends who are able and willing to help?
- ◆ How much help can I reasonably expect from them?
- ◆ How much help am I willing to accept from them?
- ◆ Would it be possible to live with family and/or friends if I could no longer care for myself?
- ◆ Would I want to?

FOR THE CAREGIVER

- ◆ Am I aware of my relatives wishes regarding care decisions?
- ◆ If I am making care decisions for someone else, have I involved her or him in the decision making process?
- ◆ Given my responsibilities and time constraints, how much help can I reasonably give? How much am I willing to give?
- ◆ Would it be possible for the person for whom I am caring to move in with me?
- ◆ Would I want them to?
- ◆ Have I discussed this with them?

"This conference has been on my heart for a long time. I know there is a great need for information and resources," Garrett said.

The longevity of life and aging of America has created a need for caregiving, Whittington said.

Missionary laid to rest after Brazil accident

Funeral services were held April 25 in Baton Rouge, La., for Wendell "Boots" Blackwell, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionary to Brazil.

A memorial service for Blackwell was also held April 21 in Florianopolis, Brazil.

Blackwell died April 20 as a result of injuries received in a traffic accident the evening before, on the same stretch of Brazilian roadway where FMB missionary Larry Braswell, a Mississippian, was involved in a near-fatal accident with a log truck on Sept. 18, 1996.

Initial, unconfirmed reports on the Blackwell accident indicated at least one person in the

other car was killed, and that alcohol may have been involved.

Blackwell, 52, served as director of the evangelism and missions department of the Baptist state board in Santa Catarina, Brazil. He was returning from a preaching engagement when a vehicle reportedly crossed the highway center line and struck his car.

A Baton Rouge native and former construction engineer, Blackwell had served as an FMB missionary since 1981.

He is survived by his wife, the former Sherry Weeks of Mansfield, La.; two sons, Jonathan, 17, and Joshua, 14; and three daughters, Jennifer, 19, Jodi, 15, and Jill, 12.

His parents, the W.W. "Ben" Blackwells of Baton Rouge, have been active for many years in the Mississippi and Louisiana Baptist Campers on Mission programs.

He was the nephew of Joe Blackwell, pastor of Fernwood Church, Fernwood (Miss.).

"This was a great, kind, hard-working servant of our Lord. He will be missed by many," said Ann Fallaw, associate director of FMB work in Brazil. "Our prayers are for his dear wife and their five children."

The Blackwell family can be contacted at 3350 Lanier Drive, Baton Rouge, La. 70814

Baptist Press contributed to this article.

Campolo: Baptists getting too comfortable

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP) — Tony Campolo admits he's abrasive, but Eastern College's acclaimed sociology professor is not ashamed of criticism, and he's particularly not afraid to confront his attackers — especially when it comes to matters of faith.

Campolo, labeled an evangelical liberal by his critics, would argue he is as theologically conservative as any Southern Baptist. "You can't get me doctrinally. I'm in," Campolo stated recently to a group of Southern Baptists in Alabama.

But while he takes the Bible literally, the American Baptist theologian is also one step ahead of most religious leaders. And with such vision comes criticism.

"People pick on the minor things I say to keep from hearing the major thing, and that bothers me," Campolo said, equating it to the woman at the well who did not want to acknowledge her sin. "They try to shift the subject to a theological fine point."

Campolo has been called a homosexual activist, a heretic, a feminist, and that is just the beginning, but those labels come from people who do not listen to Campolo's message, he claims.

He doesn't believe homosexuality is right, but he does not tolerate those who say "hate the sin, love the sinner" and show absolutely no compassion toward homosexuals. Campolo said he cannot understand why Southern Baptists are so opposed to women standing behind American pulpits but will place them in ministry positions halfway around the world. He has little patience for those who try to put God in the Republican Party.

"What I see happening is a culture war," Campolo said of religion in America. "Everybody is polarized, and there is a tendency for each side to make sure you are one of them. And if you are not, they get really mad at you."

Campolo says evangelical Christianity in America is steering away from being about a belief in the Bible, conviction about inerrancy of Scripture and a call to win people to Christ. If that were the case, Campolo insists, evangelical Christians would not oppose him "because I have those same convictions."

"But when evangelical Christianity becomes an invitation to enter the culture wars and to demonize people who are not part of a particular group, I cannot go along with that," Campolo said.

"The problem with Southern Baptists is that you are so successful, so big, so effective, and so theologically sound that you lose the ability to undergo self criticism," Campolo said. In theory, Southern Baptist theology is on target, he said. It is in the practice where the denomination falls down.

"I'm not sure where the Southern Baptist ideology ends and the Republican Party begins," Campolo said, noting he is not trashing the GOP but believes the gospel should transcend politics. "So many Southern Baptists think that if conservative political ideology is realized, the Kingdom of God will be reached." Campolo said this trend is detrimental and even counterproductive to spreading the gospel.

"If we recreate Jesus so he becomes an example of political ideology, then we are guilty of idolatry because we have made Jesus in our own

image," Campolo said.

Campolo said he opposes evangelicals in general and Southern Baptists in particular who aim for achieving a "Christian nation" through political means rather than helping people develop a personal relationship with Christ.

Campolo said he admires the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) for its ability to organize Christians into an effective evangelistic ministry and influence the American political agenda, but he is concerned about the narrow-mindedness Southern Baptists nurture.

The SBC resolution to boycott Walt Disney Inc. was a good moral stand, Campolo said, but it was too narrow. He would like to see the SBC also speak out against Disney's exploitation of the poor, in Disney factories in Haiti.

Campolo said he is afraid that tunnel vision in the SBC will keep the denomination from realizing that the future of evangelism is in Pentecostalism rather than fundamentalism. "The United States is the last bastion against Pentecostalism," Campolo said, noting that Southern Baptist preachers in Latin America and many other continents have embraced it.

"The future of the Southern Baptist movement is highly contingent upon whether it can come to grips with the fact that the Holy Spirit is doing something that they better get a hold of. Organizational genius will carry you only so far."

Church tax forms due May 15

Church treasurers who thought their work was finished on April 15 have a surprise in store — May 15 is the filing deadline for Form 990-T and Form 5578.

Form 990-T, the unrelated business income tax return, must be filed by churches that had \$1,000 or more in gross income in 1996 from unrelated trade or business.

Form 5578, the annual certification of non-discrimination, must be filed by any church that operates a private school including preschools, primary/secondary schools, and colleges. Form 5578 must be submitted whether the school is operated by the church or a separate legal entity.

For more information, contact the Accounting and Personnel Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

Since I was assaulted last year by someone I trusted, I have been unable to relate to anyone — including my church friends. Will I ever be able to trust people again?

You are experiencing a normal reaction to the trauma you have suffered. Something very precious was taken from you, and the fact that it was taken by someone you trusted is even more difficult. It is important that you allow yourself time to heal. Go slow in redeveloping close relationships, and limit yourself initially to one special friend to whom you can best relate. You can attend events at safe places, like church. You can drive your own car to those events, and do whatever else you feel you must to maintain the feeling that you are in control of your situation. As you begin to feel more in control and your one special friendship deepens, you will become more open with your friend and eventually with other people. Make a list of the qualities you want in a truly trustworthy person, and be sure your new relationships have those qualities (amend your list as the need arises). To those who find themselves ministering to a friend who has been victimized in this way, it is important that you give your friend plenty of time and freedom — even the freedom to question your motives in trying to help. Stay in touch through prayer chains,

a short note now and then, and possibly a short telephone call. Don't force your friend to be close before he/she is ready. Just be there!

When I hear certain songs or detect a special scent, I'm tempted to return to a sinful (but exciting) part of my past. How do I battle this urge?

Phil 4:8-9 (NIV) states: "...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you." If you keep your mind, heart, eyes, ears, and self focused on the proper things, you will have peace about your temptation. Martin Luther, the 15th century theologian who sparked the Protestant Reformation, once said, "You can't keep birds from flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair." The tempting thoughts, songs, and scents from your sinful past will always be flying overhead. The decision you must make is whether you will nibble at Satan's bait or feast on the spiritual bounty from God's table. Which will it be for you?

Blue Mountain College sets commencement exercise

Blue Mountain College (BMC), Blue Mountain, will hold commencement exercises for its 124th annual session on Sunday, May 4.

Eighty-five graduates will be awarded the bachelor's degree.

The baccalaureate service will be at 11 a.m. in the Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium, with Louis F. Smith delivering the sermon.

Smith currently serves as the director of Church-Minister Relations Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The commencement address is scheduled for 3 p.m. in Berry Auditorium, with Marjean Patterson as the featured speaker.

Patterson currently serves as the executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Woman's

Missionary Union (WMU).

Patterson, a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, has served in various capacities including Sunday School teacher, WMU leader, choir member, and chairman of the finance committee.

BMC will also award two honorary degrees.

The doctor of divinity degree will be awarded to James L. Travis in recognition of his distinguished teaching career of 36 years as Bible professor and head of the BMC Department.

Patterson will receive the doctor of humanities degree in recognition of her outstanding service to Mississippi Baptists through her contribution to Woman's Missionary Union during her tenure of almost 40 years.



Smith



Patterson

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



MISSIONARY NEWS

Robert and Veronica Erwin, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 36, 17.760-000 Inubia Paulista, Brazil). He was born in Florence, Ala., and grew up in Oak Ridge and Knox County, Tenn. She is the former Veronica (Ronnie) Wheeler of Sandersville.

Jerry and Dorothy Hubbard, missionaries to Zambia, are in the States (address: 6808 Forrestview, Arlington, Texas 76016). He was born in Caruthersville, Mo., and considers Senatobia his hometown. She is the former Dorothy Smart of Fort Worth, Texas.

Ronnie and Beth Parker, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 7048, 71619-970 Brasilia, DF, Brazil). He was born in Hattiesburg and also lived in Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, and Huntsville, Ala., while growing up. The former Beth Colletti, was born in New Orleans, La., and lived in Hattiesburg, Biloxi, and Mims, Fla., while growing up.

Steve and Vidonia Smith, missionaries to Argentina, are in the states (address: P.O. Box 12155, Jackson, Miss. 39236). He was born in Santa Monica, Calif., and considers Hattiesburg his hometown. The former Vidonia Smith was born in Houston, Texas, and considers White Oak her hometown.



Atkinson

Lloyd H. Atkinson, who directs efforts by the Foreign Mission Board (FMB) to appoint new missionaries, has been named associate vice president for mission personnel. Atkinson, a former FMB missionary to Chile in 1972-77, will continue to direct the board's Personnel Selection Department.

Mark Mitchell, D.O. has joined the medical staff, specializing in Emergency Medicine, at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Mitchell is associated with MEA, Inc. in Jackson.

Harmony Church, Union County Association, recently

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STAFF CHANGES

Corinth Church, Heidelberg, has called **Michael Collins** as minister of youth and education effective April 20. Collins is a graduate of Pensacola Christian College. Edd Holloman is pastor of Corinth Church.

Joe Applewhite (pictured with his wife Delores) was

recently ordained by First Church, Pascagoula. He is the new pastor of Jackson Avenue Baptist Mission, a work sponsored by First Church. Applewhite has a degree in biology from Mississippi Industrial College and a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He has done post graduate studies in biolo-

NAMES IN THE NEWS



RAs and GAs of Trinity Church, Carthage, recently had a bike-athon and raised \$615 for foreign missions. Pictured (from left) first row, are Ashley Johnson, Bethany Johnson, Courtney Ingram; second row, Bobby Sikes, Kelcey Sikes, Eric Dowell, Kyle Moore, Zack Johnson, D. J. Boatner; third row, Victoria Crenshaw, Amanda Schmidt, Justin Chamblee, D. J. Ingram, Brett Moore, Jeffrey Chancellor; fourth row, Rodney Moore, Don Ingram, and David Chamblee. Not pictured was Stanley Dowell.

held deacon ordination services for **Randy Jackson**. He and his wife Tanya have two daughters, Sleigh and Emily. Pictured (from left) are Robert Daniel, pastor; Jackson; and Dale Manning, chairman of deacons.



Daniel, Jackson, and Manning

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gy at the University of Central North Carolina. Rex Yancey is pastor of First Church, Pascagoula.



Joe and Delores Applewhite

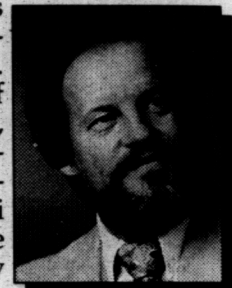
Jim Alford resigned as pastor of Parkway Church, Tupelo, to accept a staff position with the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village as the director of Northeast Mississippi Family Ministries. He will reside in Tupelo and can be

reached for Children's Village information or supply preaching/revival at (601) 566-7722 or 680-6956.

Good Hope Church, Lena, has called **Jessie L. Napp** of Meridian as pastor effective March 9. Napp is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was interim pastor of Eureka Church, Cromwell, Ala.

Concord Church, Franklin Association, has called **James A. Case** as pastor effective March 3.

A native of Brookhaven, Case attended Mississippi College. He previously served as pastor at Eddiceton Church, Franklin Association.



Case

REVIVAL DATES

Stanton, Natchez: May 2-4; Paul Taylor, evangelist; Steve Purvis, pastor.

Shiloh, Oxford: May 4-7; Sunday, high attendance day starting at 9:45 a.m., and worship, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Dale Ellenburg, Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, evangelist; Tom Foy, Memphis, music; Ronnie Mayes, interim pastor.

Southside, Jackson: May 4-7; Mon.-Wed., 12 noon-1 p.m.; Bob Smith, Dallas, evangelist; J. M. Wood, Jackson, music; Jeffrey R. Parker, pastor.

Wellman (Lincoln): May 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. followed by breakfast and 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, evangelist; Jim Everett, pastor, music.

Twin Lakes (Metro): May 4-7; Sunday, 10:30 a.m., noon meal, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Yates, Yazoo City, evangelist; R. L. and Beth

Sigrest, Yazoo City, music; Bill Stanford, pastor.

Highland, Vicksburg: May 4-7; Sunday, Bible study, 9:45 a.m., worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. lunch at 11:45 a.m., services 12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Tim Hubbard, music; Brian Ivey, pastor.

Hope, Philadelphia: May 11-14; 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, evangelist; William Crenshaw, Hope Church, music; Jimmy Young, pastor.

Liberty (Mississippi): May 25-28; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ken Hester, Mañtee, evangelist; Jason Wallis, Birmingham, Ala., music; Martin Hayden, pastor.

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DARE TO TEST TONGUES

Editor:

The ultimate challenge for the entire tongues movement is hereby stated. (I Kings 18:17-41).

Take your camcorder to an active, spirit-filled tongues-speaking service. Record on video tape the entire meeting.

When a tongue is given and then immediately interpreted, confer with both parties to make sure the tongue you recorded is the same one that is interpreted on your video tape.

The next day go to a nearby city and locate the most active tongues-speaking church.

Consult with the members and ask who is the most spirit filled interpreter of tongues.

Call for a group meeting with this person in which you show your tape. Stop the tape after the tongue is given which is later interpreted.

Ask the present interpreter to interpret. Play it several times without the original interpretation.

It is my contention that your response will not be cordial, coherent, or consistent. At any rate, I do not believe you will have the same interpretation if you seek a hundred responses.

A ten-page intensive study

guide that proves that the unknown tongue is definitely not for today and should never be experienced in a worship service is now available. For more information on how to get a copy, send your name and address to The Last Word, P.O. Box 78222, Baton Rouge, LA 70837

John L. Hawkins
Greenwell Springs, La.

LETTERS DEPRESSING

Editor:

As far as I am concerned, printing letters to the editor in "The Baptist Record" which

support racial segregation is in the same category as printing letters which support incest or rape or murder or any other vile sin against God.

Realizing that such godless thinking still exists among our people is most depressing.

John Armistead
Tupelo

CELEBRATING NEW WMU

Editor:

First Church, Benndale (George-Greene Association) has recently organized a Woman's Missionary Union. Newly elected president is Helen Walters of Benndale. We desire your prayers in this new work in our church for our Lord Jesus Christ. We've had good attendance so far and very good meetings. We are expecting God to do great things in this new endeavor.

Martha S. Dixon
Benndale

Central Hills slates camps

Registrations for summer camp sessions at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko are now being received by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Week-long resident camp sessions are open to boys and young men entering grades four through 12. Campers may or may not be enrolled in a Royal Ambassador or Challenger organization in their local church.

Camp sessions, which will begin with registration at 10 a.m. each Monday and conclude with lunch on Friday, are planned for:

- ◆ June 16-20.
- ◆ June 23-27.
- ◆ July 7-11.
- ◆ July 14-18.
- ◆ July 21-25.
- ◆ July 28-Aug. 1.

In addition, overnight Lad/Dad Weekends are scheduled for June 27-28 and July 11-12.

Lad/Dad weekends, for dads and their boys entering grades one through three, are designed as a special outing for fathers and sons.

Weather is more comfortable during the earlier sessions. Groups and individuals are encouraged to take advantage of the earlier dates.

For more information and to register, contact Central Hills Retreat at P.O. Box 723, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0723. Telephone: (601) 289-9730.

Staying Well Informed

Are You Dying To Be Thin?

Food, food everywhere. No matter where you look – on television, in the newspapers, as you're in your car – tempting images of food bombard you. Now look at the models. Thin, beautiful people selling everything from cars to cough medicines to even food. The contradicting messages: Eat all you want, but thin is in.

Most of us just laugh, accepting the fact that we'll never eat the way we do and look like those Hollywood models. But for some people the obsession with being thin can snowball into dangerous and deadly conditions such as anorexia and bulimia.

To help you understand eating disorders, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center will offer, "Are You Dying to be Thin?" on Tuesday, May 6, 1997 at MBMC's Busey Auditorium. Sessions will be led by Martha J. Cain, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist; Dr. J. David Richardson, M.D., a psychiatrist; and Jane Clayton, R.D., L.D., registered dietician.

The seminar will focus on recognition of the signs and symptoms of eating disorders; identification of risk factors; ways to intervene if a family member is suspected of developing an eating disorder; and types of treatment available. "Are You Dying To Be Thin?" is for anyone interested in finding out more about these dangerous, but treatable, conditions. The seminar costs \$5 per participant, or \$10 for family groups of two or more. Pre-registration is requested.

Anyone can be at risk for developing eating disorders. By the time you've noticed a loved one has one of these conditions, time may be running out. Your best defense is to be informed.

Understanding the Benefits of Eating Disorders Awareness

Call 948-MBMC or 1-800-948-MBMC (6262)
for reservations or more information.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.



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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



Over 350 young people participated in the Disciple Now program held at First Church, Florence; First Church, Richland; Star Church; and Cleary Church recently. Disciple Now is a national program combining music, drama, counseling, and individual and group prayer that allows college students to share their faith with high school students. Pictured are the William Carey College Baptist Student Union members who participated in Disciple Now.

Jim Boyd, art major at William Carey College on the Coast, took first place (\$1,000 purchase award) at the Fifth Biennial Juried Religious Art Exhibit. The exhibit was sponsored by Dauphin Way United Methodist Church, Mobile, Ala.

Three William Carey College on the Coast art students won Juror's Awards at the Mississippi Collegiate Art Competition held at the Meridian Museum of Art. They are Janis Anderson, ceramics; Daphne Dudley, sculpture; and Annette Blocker, mixed media. The competition is an annual event that recognizes artistic talent by students at four-year col-

leges and universities in Mississippi.

Mississippi students at William Carey College chosen for the 1997 Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges recognition are: Jennifer Cook, Christie Merck, Douglas Morris, and

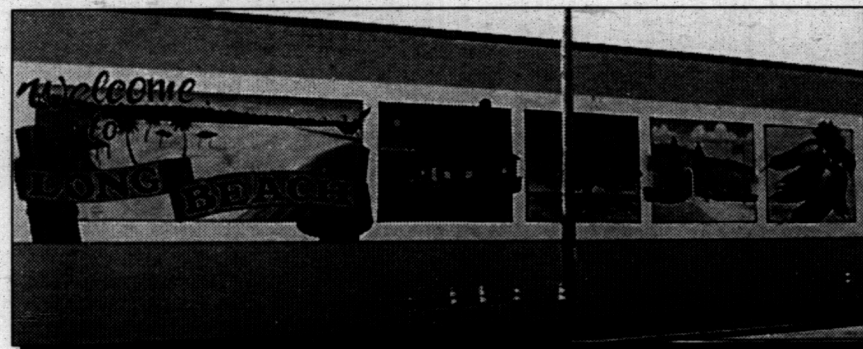
Allanda Small, Hattiesburg; Jennifer Curry, Steven Marsh, and Joy Russell, Petal; Jenny Steed and Dana Watson, Laurel; Priscilla Walker and America Wise, Columbia; Trinia Blackmon, Summit; Shannon Clark, Tupelo; Cindy Glaze, Jackson; Jamie Jackson, Raymond; Dana Johnson, Sallis; Walter McIntosh, Sandersville; Chase Moore, Meridian; Ruth Nichole Roberts, Isola; Stephen Stringer, Escatawpa; Janis Anderson, Myra Johnson, Amber Leatherwood, LaTanya Reeves, and Mark Smith, Gulfport; Joy Breslin, Pass Christian; Wendy Burgess and Andrew Stroman, Biloxi; Oleg Chichkanov and Joann Thompson, Long Beach; Jonathan Reeb, Keesler; Don Smith, Pascagoula; and Tim Waldrop and Howard Kaough, Ocean Springs; and Kim Smith, McNeill.

Seymour Adolph Jr. of Gulfport, a graduate of William Carey College, recently received the Robert Greene Lee Preaching Award at the University of Mobile School of Religion Awards Ceremony. He is currently the pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, Gulfport.

Registration for the first



John McCall was honored at a reception upon his retirement after serving more than 10 years at Mississippi College. Pictured with McCall and his wife Vicki is Louise Hudson of the Mississippi College Office of Public Relations.



A 10x60 foot mural commissioned by the City of Long Beach was dedicated recently. Representatives of the city, the Long Beach Rotary Club, and William Carey College were on hand for the presentation, the result of an almost two-year long collaborative effort among the three entities. Undertaken as a beautification project which would also provide technical experience for students, the endeavor was spearheaded by Rotary Club member and Carey College art department chairman Ted Rose.

summer term at Mississippi College will be held on May 27 in the A.E. Wood Coliseum. Registration for day classes will be from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and night classes from 4-6 p.m. Registration for the second term will be June 30 following the same time schedule as first term. For additional informa-

tion, call the Office of Admissions at (601) 925-3240 or 1-800-738-1236.

LAKEWOOD MEMORIAL PARK

Rev. Rob Robbins is now a Counselor with Lakewood Memorial Park and Funeral Home. For a caring approach to cemetery and funeral planning, call him at 922-2123.

HOMEcomings

Harmony, Crystal Springs: May 4; 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; other activities include building dedication of new sanctuary; Clark Stewart, pastor.

Poplar Flat, Louisville: May 4; homecoming and memorial services will begin at 10:45 a.m.; James G. Pope, pastor, will be the speaker.

Carmel, Monticello: May 4; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; wor-

ship, 11 a.m.; noon meal; 1 p.m. singing; Harold O'Chester, former pastor (1954-55), Austin, Texas, guest speaker; music by Obadiah, D'Lo; Ted C. Bowlin, pastor.

First, Orange Grove, Pascagoula: May 4; 40th anniversary; services, 10 a.m.; noon meal; Dennis Ray Smith, Pascagoula, guest speaker; The Portsman, music; Sid Taylor, pastor.



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8:00 a.m. First Worship
9:00 a.m. Second Worship and First Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Third Worship and Second Bible Study

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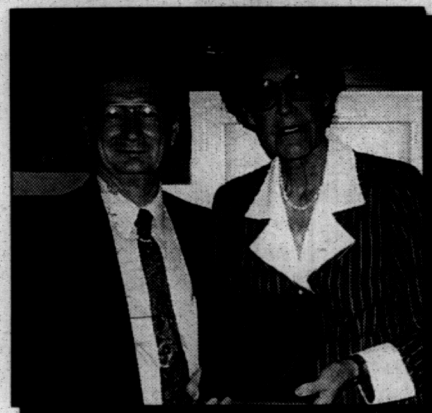
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JUST FOR THE RECORD



Cedar Grove Church, Marion County, held a note burning ceremony on March 2. The church paid off the debt on a new educational building in one year. Members of the building and finance committees, the board of deacons, and the contractor (pictured) front row, are Elois Blansett, James Bryant, Paula Dyess, David Watts, Chick Bourne, Grace Bourne, Frank Breland, Bill Stringer (contractor), Betty Breland, Brenda Stringer, and Mike Breland. Back row, Raymond May, Dan Speights, Bob May, Gary Arthur, and George May.



Daniel and Manning

Harmony Church, Union County Association, had Founders Day on Feb. 23. On program were John Henry Hale, whose father gave the land; Enoch Purvis, former pastor, told of the move from the old school building to build a new church which was completed in 1967; and Robert L. Daniel, pastor. Pictured with Daniel is Geraldine Manning, who received a plaque for teaching Sunday School for 37 years, church clerk for 27 years, and church organist/pianist since 1953.

Gracewood Church, Olive Branch, will dedicate its new 600 seat sanctuary on May 4. The church was founded in 1994 through the merger of Graceland Church, Whitehaven, and Summerwood Church, Olive Branch. Gracewood Church has finished an educational facility and now will dedicate an administrative complex and sanctuary. The service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Ronnie Mitchell is pastor.

First Church, Gulfport, is constructing a memorial parkway leading to the church's centennial historical marker. The walkway will be constructed of bricks embossed with the names of living or deceased friends and family members. For more information, contact the church at (601) 863-8501.

Neshoba Association announces the retirement of Leo Barker, director of missions, on June 30. Applications will be accepted until June 1 for the position of director of missions for Neshoba Association.



Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall, held ground breaking ceremonies April 6 for the \$298,720 construction of a new sanctuary, and renovation of the old sanctuary for education space, offices, library, choir room, and kitchen. The project is set for completion in late August, 1997. Pictured from left, are Benny Still, pastor; Tom Wittingham, deacon; Bill Anderson, contractor; Truitt Barnard, building committee; Pat Fewell and Judy Burnham, property and space committee; Farris Smith, director of missions, Simpson Association; Kelly Lee, deacon; Howard Fewell, stewardship committee; Adelia Rankin; Linda Rankin; Allan Rankin, stewardship committee; Nomia May; John Edwards, property and space committee; Regina Shows, treasurer; Roy May, deacon; Buster Shows, property and space committee; L. E. Ponder, deacon; and Harold Overby, deacon. Front center, Cody and Houston Pittman and Mason Fewell.

Applicants should send resume to Neshoba Baptist Association, 903 Valley View Drive, Philadelphia, MS 39350

Lucius B. Marion Day will be held at Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, on May 11, to honor Marion on his 60th anniversary in the ministry. Marion and his wife Mildred are to be honored in the 11 a.m. service, followed by a church-wide fellowship meal. Marion was pastor of Clarksdale Church from 1961-1982. Since retirement he has served as pastor emeritus.

May Day will be held at

Silver Creek Church, Pike Association, on May 4. Activities will include Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds following worship; and 1:30 p.m. songfest. Mike Sosebe, former pastor, will deliver the message. Pat Bourg is pastor.

Impact Day, sponsored by American Christian Writers, will be held on May 31 at First Church, Memphis, Tenn. Tuition is \$79 before May 10 and \$95 after May 10 or at the door. For more information or to register, write American Christian Writers, P. O. Box 110390, Nashville, TN 37222-0390.

Horton serving Kemper

Tim P. Horton, bivocational pastor of Westside Church, Neshoba Association, for three years, has been serving as director of missions in Kemper Association



Horton

since November 1996. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and has completed part of his seminary work through New Orleans Seminary.

Horton pastored several churches in Mississippi. Early in his ministry he served in evangelism both music and preaching in over 100 churches.

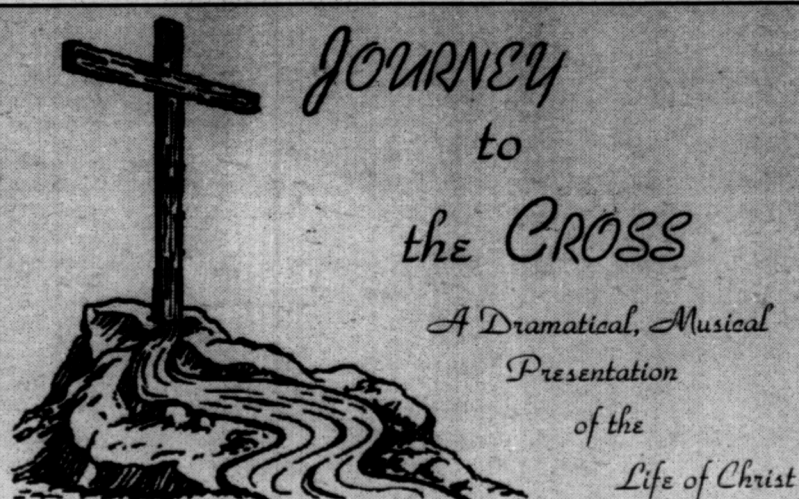
He and his wife Gay Ingram Horton have three children.

MBMC sets Father/Son Seminar

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) will sponsor the sixth annual Father/Son Seminar from 9 a.m.-12 noon on Saturday, May 10 in John Busey Auditorium on the medical center's State Street campus in Jackson. Mother/son families are also welcome to attend.

Issues to be covered include becoming a man, and establishing a foundation of respect and communication between parent and child. Respect for, and understanding of, God's gifts will be emphasized.

Fee is \$10 per family. Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 7. To register and for more information, call (601) 948-6262 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 948-MBMC.



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LIFE AND WORK Freed by the Spirit

Romans 8:1-17

By Becky Bennett

What a wonderful feeling we experience when we hear the words "I forgive you" from a family member or a friend. Those words set us free to resume a special relationship. How great it is to be free from the awkwardness of an embarrassing situation. How much greater it is to experience the freedom Christians find in living a Spirit-controlled life. This is freedom at its highest level.

Free from the Law (8:1-4). As Christians we are called upon to obey many laws. Our country, state, counties, and cities have laws that all good citizens are

expected to follow.

This section of scripture does not relieve us of that responsibility. Paul, through his writings to the Roman Christians, tells us we are free from the law of sin. This certainly does not put Christians above the law, nor are we free from keeping those civil laws. Being a Christian does however, free us from the "legalism of religion." We learned from Nicodemus that being good and keeping all the rules was not enough. We can't be good enough, nor can we keep enough rules and regulations to earn eternal life. It is God



Bennett

through the gift of his Son who gives us eternal life. It is God through the gift of the Holy Spirit who gives us the strength and courage to live in freedom. Freedom that comes from the Spirit is transforming. With the power of the Spirit we have the tools necessary to defeat sin. When God says "I forgive you" we are truly liberated to pursue the life God gives through the Spirit.

Free from Sin's Control (8:5-9a). We live in a selfish society. Every form of media constantly tells us to satisfy self. When people are focused on themselves, they often become afraid and imprisoned by worry. The drive to accumulate and achieve becomes their ultimate goal. They never have enough. They actually become enemies of God. Their desires

are hostile to God and they cannot please God.

The life controlled by the Spirit, however, is at peace. Satisfied with God's provision, the Spirit-controlled Christian focuses first on God, then on others. Paul is very plain spoken about the Spirit-controlled life. If the Spirit lives in us, we will be controlled by the Spirit. Do you show a Spirit-controlled life to those around you?

Free from Death (8:9b-11). Those who do not have the Spirit of God in their lives are not Christians. Without the Spirit a person is not a member of the spiritual family because they have no relationship with the Father or the Son. The healthiest and most vibrant person is dead and useless without the Spirit.

God has freed the Christian from death, just as he freed Jesus from death. Physical death

will occur. Spiritual death will never occur for the Christian, because God will not allow it. Isn't that a comforting thought? It is God who does this work in us through the Spirit. It is not something we can do for ourselves. God's power is sufficient to free us from death.

Free from Fear (8:12-17). Fear enslaves and imprisons. We all have fears. For children the fears may be as simple as being afraid of the dark. Adult fears and worries often come about because we focus on self. God established a relationship with us to relieve all our fears and worries. We are his children. We have the right to call him "Daddy." What a personal and intimate relationship we have with God! With a relationship such as this, how can we continue to live in fear?

Bennett is Dean of Students at Blue Mountain College.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Receiving God's promises 2 Samuel 7:8-17

By Greg McBride

Many times when bad things happen to us we say "why me?" Our lesson today helps us answer that question when good things happen to us. David was chosen by God to be Israel's king after Saul. He first established himself at Hebron over the southern tribes. Seven years later, after defeating the Jebusites at Jerusalem, he made the city his capital and reigned over all Israel. David sought to unify the country under the worship of Jehovah in one central location. To do this he moved the ark of God and the Tabernacle to Jerusalem.

God continued to bless David with victory over his

enemies and wealth.

As David looked out of his palace of cedar and saw God's ark in only a tent, he recognized an inequity. In the face of this inequity, David determined to build God a temple. Our lesson focuses on God's response to David's decision to build the temple.

God Acts on Behalf of His People (7:8-11). After first encouraging David to proceed with his plans, Nathan, the prophet of God, returned to the palace with instructions from God. First, God reminded David of his past. It was God who had elevated David from a shepherd boy to the ruler of Israel. It was God who had given him victory in his battles



McBride

and who had made his name great among men. Because of David's obedience, God had acted for good on his behalf in the past.

Next, God revealed how he would "plant" the people of Israel in the land and give them rest. Up to this point Israel's existence in the

Promised Land had been anything but stable and restful (see the book of Judges). Because of David's obedience to God, God had given Israel rest on all sides (7:1). Thus, as a result of David's faithfulness, God acted on behalf of the whole people of Israel.

God acted for good in the life of David because David included God in his life. God's goodness to David effected the whole nation for good. Today God still blesses our world by blessing those of his people who include him in their lives. "Why is all this good happen-

ing to me" you ask? God acts for good in our lives not just for our personal consumption. Sometimes, God blesses the world through the blessings he bestows upon faithful servants.

God's Enduring Commitment to His People (7:12-17). Nathan went on to describe what God had planned for David. Though David had determined to build God a temple (house), God planned to build David a dynasty (house). To accomplish this God promised a special relationship with David that was different than the one he had had with Saul. God would relate to David's sons as a father to a son. Whenever David's sons sinned, God would use adverse circumstances (rod of men) in their lives to correct them.

This special relationship was based on God's lovingkindness. "Lovingkindness" describes unconditional, ever-

lasting commitment. In this passage "lovingkindness" is a part of the character of God. Thus, here the new relationship would be based on God's character rather than the faithfulness of David's sons. When David's sons sinned, rather than abandon the relationship as he had done with Saul, God would work to remove the sin from their lives.

We can learn a lot from this promise of God. First, God is committed to his people. This truth is fundamental. Without that commitment we, his people, have no hope, for our sins do bear us out. Second, God's commitment to us is based on his character, which never changes. That means our sin, though it may bring adverse effects upon us, never alters God's commitment to us. We are people under the promise of God. This fact should affect the way we live.

McBride is pastor, Kittiwake Church, Pass Christian.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES Who is worthy?

Revelation 4-5

By Paul Blanchard

Jesus is worthy of our faith and worship. John saw in this chapter the glorified Christ and worshiped, for Jesus alone is worthy to open the "book" or scroll. Chapter 5:1 talks about a book sealed with seven seals. This is a scroll. Someone once said that this scroll is the title deed to the earth. No one was worthy to claim it. The question is not, "Who is willing?" but rather "Who is worthy?" The ranks of the living and the dead, those on earth, those in heaven, and those in hell, are combed in search for a worthy king, but not a single one is found. A deep silence descends

upon the scene, as every voice is hushed and the angels themselves cease to sing. Not a voice is raised to take the scroll.

Suddenly the silence is broken. John says "and I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon." This is probably the first time a man had wept within the walls of Heaven, for in Heaven there will be no sorrow, crying, tears, or pain. There stood the aged Apostle John, amid scenes of beauty that defy imagination, weeping with tears running down his old, tired cheeks. He was weeping



Blanchard

in shame for all the sons of Adam's race, not one of whom was worthy to take the scroll and open it. As John stood weeping, one of the elders stepped down from his throne, walked over to John, and gently wiped away the tears and said, "Weep not, Behold the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book."

The lion was none other than the Lamb of God, Jesus! As a lamb, Jesus came to save. This is no ordinary lamb. This lamb has the seven horns of omnipotence and seven eyes of omniscience. This Lamb is "Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24).

Suppose someone had asked Jesus, "What is the basis of your claim to the title deed of earth?" He could give three answers: 1) By right of creation, for he

made it. 2) By right of calvary, for he redeemed it and bought it with his own blood. 3) By right of conquest, for he will go back in war and claim it. Notice, from the moment the lamb is put in the picture, John cannot take his eyes off him!

Let us look at the visions in heaven. John saw a heavenly throne in chapter four. Everything about the throne of God is awesome and strange. The rainbow around the throne is described as an emerald rainbow. An emerald rainbow that completes a circle is a strange sight.

The jasper emphasizes the hardness connected with the government of God. His laws are fixed and firm, unyielding and un-renting. The sardius stone suggests the holiness connected with the government of God. Sardius is a deep, fiery red. It reminds us that our God is a consuming fire as mentioned in Deuteronomy 4:24.

There has been much speculation concerning the elders. Some people see them as representatives of Old and New Testament saints. Others say they are angelic beings, crowned members of the aristocracy of heaven.

In 4:10-11, the elders are seen praising and worshipping Jesus. They bow themselves at the feet of the savior and proclaim, "holy, holy." The elders worship Jesus as creator and by so doing instruct us in a basic truth of creation: all things were created by his power and for his pleasure. No creation has the right to existence apart from a willingness to receive Jesus.

Remember, Jesus is worthy of our praise and adoration. He is the Lamb of God! He is the King of Kings! He is Lord of Lords!

Blanchard is Director of Missions, Winston Association.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Staff learn by doing as they work together to complete a task on a ropes course element. Later this summer these staff will help facilitate groups of young people on our Adventure Based Ropes Course. The course is located on The India Nunnery Campus in Jackson.



Facilitator, Chip Price, teaches Child Care Worker, Bruce Stubbs how to tie a knot. Detailed instruction is necessary to provide the highest level of safety and most beneficial learning experience.

You can find the missing PEACE



The Prince of Peace extends a wonderful invitation to you.

1. His love gives us peace.

This is his promise:

"Perfect love casts out fear."

(1 John 4:18) When we ask Christ into our lives, his love chases away fear.

2. His promise of eternal life gives us peace.

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life." (Romans 6:23) God provides eternal life through the death and resurrection of his Son.

3. His promise to walk with us through life gives us peace.

Jesus said, "In me you may have peace. In this world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) Jesus extends his promise of peace to us, but we must respond by accepting him as the missing piece in our lives.

You can make that commitment today by, (1) admitting you need God, (2) confessing your sins to him, and (3) by faith, receiving Christ as Lord.

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Mississippi Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.

SBC vice-president describes profession

By Linda Lawson
Baptist Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Lying in a New Orleans hospital bed in September 1977 with broken bones and intense pain, 21-year-old Fred Luter Jr. didn't know if he would live or die.

He was a street-wise young man whose mother had always made him go to church no matter how late he was out on Saturday night, but he had fallen into the wrong crowd and made a series of choices that had led him away from God.

A deacon who was more concerned about his spiritual health than his physical pain got in his face with the question, "I'm not asking you if you're baptized. I'm asking you if you're saved."

"God, if you'll save me, I'll give you my life," Luter told the Lord that day.

Speaking April 16-18 during the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) annual Spiritual Emphasis Days, Luter said, "There are a lot of things I wonder about, but salvation is not one of them."

Now pastor of the 3,000-member Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans,

Luter also is second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a BSSB trustee.

In messages on salvation, temptation and dealing with trouble, Luter challenged employees to keep Christ the focus of their lives.

"It's not enough to profess to be a Christian," Luter said. "You've got to have Christ in you" and live saved lives.

"This is our battlefield," he said. "Working for the Lord

is not easy, but the retirement package is out of this world.

"As long as you're living, breathing, and have blood flowing in your veins, you will face temptation," he warned. "All of us have some ex-es in our lives that God has delivered us from."



RETIREMENT PLANNING — "Working for the Lord is not easy, but the retirement package is out of this world," Southern Baptist Convention Second Vice President Fred Luter told employees of the Baptist Sunday School Board during Spiritual Emphasis Days, April 16-18. Luter is pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans and a trustee of the BSSB. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

"Sin will always take us farther than we want to go, charge us more than we want to pay. God will always give us a way out, but you've got to want to take it."

"God has done a work in my life," Luter said. "I've lived on both sides. God is a keeper, but we've got to want to be kept."

Volunteers needed soon for Red River cleanup

By Tim Nicholas
MBCB Communications Director

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief leaders are in Nashville this week, hammering out a coordinated design for volunteer support in the wake of severe flooding along the Red River Valley on the border between North Dakota and Minnesota.

That plan will be outlined in next week's edition of "The Baptist Record."

In the meantime, disaster relief mobile kitchens from Oklahoma, Ohio, and Texas are feeding displaced persons along the valley.

After four days in operation, more than 25,000 meals had been provided.

Mickey Caison of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood

Commission in Memphis, is serving as disaster relief on-site coordinator for the Southern Baptist Convention.

He said other cooking units are not needed at the present because of the dispersion of victims into neighboring homes rather than shelters.

For the moment, Caison said, Southern Baptist relief operations already in the region were adequately staffed.

Those planning to help with cleanup after the flood waters

recede should get the volunteers lined up, set a date for travel, and immediately contact Ed Pope, Brotherhood Director for North Dakota Baptists, at (701) 255-3765.

Pope said projections are that it will be after May 11 before much cleanup work can be done.

Paul Harrell, Mississippi Brotherhood director, said those wishing to help with purchase of cleanup supplies should write checks to the

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, designated for the North Dakota flood.

An account has already been set up for this project, he said.

One of two Southern Baptist churches in Grand Forks, N.D., has been flooded, according to news reports.

Caison called on Southern Baptists to pray for the victims and volunteers involved in this disaster response.

Baptist Press contributed to this article.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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UVBZ YBUBC FJKT, FKPG-
BC JZT HEPT VJGB K
ZEZB; LOU FODV JF K
VJGB HKGB K UVBB: KZ
UVB ZJQB EX NBFOF
DVCKFU EX ZJWJCBUV
CKFB OY JZT AJPR.

JDUF UVCBB: FKS

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Thirteen One.

'First Praise!' returns from tour



First Praise!, the 53 students and 11 adults from First Church, Hattiesburg, recently participated in their fifth annual choir tour. The tour began April 11 at Iuka Church in Iuka. The tour also included performances at Peach Tree Corners Church, Norcross, Ga., and Eastern Hills Church, Montgomery, Ala. The choir is directed by Beverley Thames. (BR special photo)